

Summary of Proposed Ordinance Relating to Zoning, Site Alteration and Critical Areas

This summary applies to the proposed Critical Areas Ordinance dated December 10, 2002, and fulfills the state Growth Management Act and King County Code 20.18.100 requirement for a “plain language” summary.

Some of these changes were included in proposed ordinances that were transmitted to the King County Council but not adopted. These items are noted using the following abbreviations:

SAO: The proposed amendments to the Sensitive Areas Ordinance, King County Code (K.C.C.) chapter 21A.24 pending at council (Proposed Ordinance 1999-0353).

SALT: The proposed Site Alteration Code pending at council (Proposed Ordinance 2000-0525). This is a proposed update to the Clearing and Grading Code.

Amendments to K.C.C. chapter 21A.30, “Development Standards: Animals, Home Occupation, Home Industry”

Section 1 -- Animal regulations - Livestock - Densities. (*K.C.C. 21A.30.040*) Revised to:

- require commercial dairy farms to comply with state requirements regarding livestock densities and to develop a farm management plan, which specifies livestock densities;
- remove language for commercial dairy farms that set a 5-year deadline for compliance, which has passed;
- set a limit of five animal units (as defined by this section) for a farm that does not have a farm management plan; and
- remove the exemption from fencing requirements for the Snoqualmie River floodplain.

Section 2 -- Animal regulations - Livestock - Farm management plans. (*K.C.C. 21A.30.045*) Revised as follows:

- Farm management plan criteria are revised to allow commercial dairy farms to substitute a certified state Department of Ecology Nutrient Management Plan for a farm management plan. (A commercial dairy farm that does not have an approved farm management plan must meet the livestock management requirements of K.C.C. chapter 21A.30.060).
- References to streams are changed to aquatic areas, references to stream types are changed to water types, and references to wetland classes are changed to wetland categories. This is done to achieve consistency with the new critical areas ordinance definitions.

Section 3 -- Animal regulations - Livestock - Management standards. (*K.C.C. 21A.30.060*) Revised as follows:

- In general, references to streams are changed to aquatic areas, references to stream types are changed to water types, and references to wetland classes are changed to wetland categories. This is done to achieve consistency with the new critical areas definitions.

- References to sensitive areas are revised to refer to critical areas to be consistent with the terminology in the Growth Management Act.
- The definition of the rainy season is revised to be October 1 through April 30.
- Fencing between confinement areas and buffers is not required if the existing natural vegetation is sufficient to exclude livestock from the buffer.
- Requirements for the management of manure stockpiles are revised to apply throughout the entire year.
- Requirements for the management of manure stockpiles are revised to require that open containers holding manure must be designed to prevent leachate from reaching any type of water or category of wetland.
- The required minimum distance between a manure pile and any wetland, aquatic area or ditch is increased to 100 feet. This distance may be reduced to 50 feet if the manure pile is part of an active compost system that does not contact the soil and that includes a leachate containment system.